

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIAGO 04018 071245Z

43

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TAGS: CI, PINT, FR

SUBJ: FRENCH COMMENTS ON CHILEAN POLITICS NOTED AND REBUTTED

1. SEPT 5, 1973 EDITION OF OFFICIAL COMMUNIST PARTY (PCCH) DAILY NEWSPAPER EL SIGLO CARRIED COLUMN ENTITLED "ANOTHER ATTACK BY REGIS DEBRAY ON COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHILE" AND SIGNED BY FORMER MINECONOMY AND PCCH POLITICAL COMMISSION MEMBER ORLANDO MILLAS, DEVOTED TO REBUTTING CHARGES AGAINST PCCH BY FRENCH IDEOLOGUE RIGIS DEBRAY WHICH REPORTEDLY APPEARED IN JUNE 18 EDITION OF LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR. IN THAT ARTICLE, DEBRAY PURPORTEDLY ANNOUNCED HIS SUPPORT FOR THE FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY, TAKING AN INCIDENTAL SWIPE AT THE PCCH WHICH, HE SAID, BECAME "ISOLATED, RETROGRADE AND STALINIST" IN 1928, SIX YEARS AFTER ITS FOUNDING. MILLAS TOOK SHARP ISSUE WITH THIS ASSERTION, CITING NUMEROUS WORKS BY MOSTLY MARXIST HISTORIANS TO BEAR OUT HIS CONTENTION THAT DURING THIS PERIOD ONLY THE PCCH STOOD IN ADAMANT OPPOSITION TO IBANEZ DICTATORSHIP WHICH "SIGNIFIED FOR CHILE EXCHANGE OF BRITISH FOR US IMPERIALIST CONTROL." CONCLUDED MILLAS: "PCCH HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN THE VANGUARD OF THE WORKING CLASS."

2. OPPOSITION PRESS, IN INTERNATIONAL SECTION, HAS BEEN GIVING
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PASSING ATTENTION TO COMMENTS MADE IN PARIS BY FRENCH COMMUNIST

PARTY OFFICIAL AND L'HUMANITE EDITOR ETIENNE FAJON UPON RETURN FROM VISIT TO CHILE. ACCORDING TO AFP REPORT DATED SEPT 1, FAJON, WHILE CITING INTRANSIGENT RIGHTIST OPPOSITION TO ALLENDE GOVT, CLAIMED CHILEAN UP HAD MADE BASIC ERROR OF BACKING "DESTRUCTIVE ECONOMIC THEORIES" AND OF UNDERESTIMATING IMPORTANCE OF INCREASING PRODUCTION. FAJON ALSO HAD HARSH WORKDS FOR WORKER SEIZURE OF FACTORIES, UP WAGE POLICY, UP ALIENATION OF MIDDLE CLASS, AND ACTIVITIES OF CHILEAN EXTREME LEFT GROUPS. AFP NOTED THIS WAS FIRST OPEN CIRITICISM BY PROMINET FRENCH LEFTIST OF UP EXPERIENCE IN CHILE, AND LINKED IT TO INTERNAL PROBLEMS OF FRENCH LEFTIST UNION.

3. COMMENT. DEBRAY IS STILL LISTED AS CONTRIBUTING EDITOR TO CHILEAN EXTREME LEFTIST PUBLICATION PUNTO FINAL, AND HE AND PCCH HAVE CROSSED VERBAL SWORDS BEFORE. CHILEANS LEFTISTS ARE PLEASED AND FLATTERED THAT ALLENDE'S UP COALITION MAY HAVE SERVED, TO GREATER OR LESSER EXTENT, AS "MODEL" FOR RECENT FRENCH POLITICAL REALIGNMENTS, AND COMMENTS OF FRENCH POLITICAL LEADERS ARE READ WITH MARKED INTEREST HERE. EMBASSY PARIS MAY WISH TO COMMENT.
DAVIS

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